

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0018], referring to the published application US 20060160991, with the following amended paragraph:

-- On the other hand, in a preferred embodiment, the PCOTH polypeptide consists of a putative 100 amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 (GenBank® Accession No. AB113650). PCOTH is encoded by the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1 and comprises a collagen triple helix repeat (FIG. 1(C)). The present application also provides an isolated protein encoded from at least a portion of the PCOTH polynucleotide sequence, or polynucleotide sequences at least 30% and more preferably at least 40% complementary to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 (LOC221179 (XP_167955) (~~XP_167995~~)). --

Please replace paragraph [0068] with the following amended paragraph:

-- According to the present invention another gene, PCOTH, was also identified to be specifically over-expressed in prostate cancer cells compared to corresponding non-cancerous tissues. The identified gene was identical with LOC221179 (XP_167955) (~~XP_167995~~). However, the PCOTH gene was revealed to encode a 100-amino acid protein set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 (GenBank® Accession No. AB113650) encoded by the open reading frame consisting of 300 nucleotides shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 which differed from that known for LOC221179 (XP_167955) (~~XP_167995~~). PCOTH was shown to comprise a collagen triple helix repeat and its exogenous product was localized in the cell membrane (FIG. 1). Therefore, the gene was dubbed "prostate collagen triple helix".

Please replace paragraph [0257] with the following amended paragraph:

-- Gene-expression profiles of purified cancer cells from 20 prostate cancers were analyzed using cDNA microarray representing 23,040 human genes. As a result, 88 genes that were commonly up-regulated in prostate cancer cells were identified. Among the identified genes, one gene with an in-house code D4493 that was markedly up-regulated in more than 50%

of prostate cancer was focused and validated for its over-expressed pattern in prostate cancer cells by RT-PCR (FIG. 1A). D4493 was overlapped by two ESTs (BC015452 and BG178505) derived from prostate cancer cDNA library and was revealed to be identical with LOC221179 (XP_167955) (~~XP_167995~~). Comparison between mouse/rat genome sequences, a novel coding region of LOC221179 was determined which codes a 100-amino acid protein. Northern blot analysis demonstrated that LOC221179 was highly and locally expressed in prostate and testis (FIG. 1B). This product has one characteristic domain, collagen triple helix repeat (FIG. 1C), which is a characteristic feature of the collagen superfamily. Thus, the gene was dubbed "PCOTH (prostate collagen triple helix)". --